POSTAGE ONE SHILLING

Recd. March 13 '56.

Ansd

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CENTS

PAID

24

Rev. S. May junr.

Leicester

Mass.

U. S. of America

BRIDGEWATER
FE 22
A

FE 22
1856
B

LIVERPOOL
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A

Ms. B.1.6 v.6, p.15

Dublin Feb. 15. 1855.
(Sh'd be 1856)

Dear Mr May — It was by an extraordinary good chance that the Delarue Box arrived in time. The mishap of its going by ship instead of steam resulted from my merely trusting that Mr [illegible] would send it as all the other Bazaar boxes went by steam. He told me that unless they had express orders they never sent by steam on account of the high freight. Before now I have been told they never sent by ship as the freights were so nearly the same both ways. However I was greatly rejoiced to hear of the box's arrival. This box is filled by the subscriptions of a few — thus, Mr Waring £20 — R. D. W. £7.10 — Mrs Allen £5 — John Wigham £2 — Making £34.10. Knowing the custom of De la Rue always to send more than I order, I only ordered £32 worth this time, relying that between the surplus of £2.10 subscriptions & their discount, I would have enough to pay their bill. But no, although I had a promise of special care to keep down the order this time, they billed me with over £38 worth which I've got. Then when I came to settle, I had to pay £2.3.6 over what I had collected, although they allowed 5 per cent discount. It looks shabby to ask the Boston ladies to pay this £2.3.6, or rather as £6 or thereabouts for the freight of the Dublin & Delarue box — but I don't see what else we can do — for the contributors are few here and whatever they give is in goods, not in money. On the whole I am rather disposed to feel shame than gratification in the efforts we make to help you.

Our friends in Edinburgh have had a sore time with Julia Griffiths. You have heard of the intensity of Scotch bigotry — and when this is inflamed by all the volubility, bitterness & activity of Julia you may imagine what a hot fire would be inflamed against all heretics

In my opinion no friends of the Am. A. Society have had such a hard card to play, & have played it so well as the Wighams of Edinburgh — the mother & daughter whose portraits are mentioned in the Account of the Bazaar by Mrs Chapman. ~~&~~ The elder lady is stepmother to the younger who is a very sweet person with great energy, zeal & industry. It is a mystery to me how these women who are both orthodox & always were so, have been able to maintain their fidelity to the Am. A. S. through so many years in such a community where the calmest & most conservative Unitarian even is looked on with a degree of horror such as you cannot imagine in Boston. At a late Committee meeting which lasted 4 hours Julia Griffiths closed the sitting by telling ~~the & elder~~ Mrs Wigham that "now she supposed they parted open enemies" — that is, Mrs Wigham & her own sweet self. And to Eliza Wigham she said that "she was tied neck & heels to Garrison" — very elegant! was it not? She has been spreading abroad the resolutions moved & seconded by W. L. G & P. P. at the Hartford Convention against Bible infallibility — than which nothing could more readily turn Scotch hair into porcupine quills. Agreeing as I do with the views entertained by Garrison & Pillsbury on this subject, I don't wonder at all that those who disagree from them should refuse to cooperate with such heretics. If people think their souls are in danger from such contact it is their only course to keep clear of evil companions. I wonder how the Wighams keep their ground, especially when I know that they are or think themselves as orthodox as any ~~st~~ Scotch body of them all. One old lady said "far better let the 4 millions remain in slavery than hand them over to Garrison who would make them ten times more a Child of Hell than himself — & that he was lost."

Julia Griffiths has audacity, impudence & courage for any work of this kind & she just delights in it. Whether it is her love of work, or her regard for Douglass or her love for money that stimulates her I cannot tell — but she is working with [illegible] there according to her own notions. Mrs Chapman I think says that she is trying to secure herself from loss by saving F. D. from bankruptcy. This may be true — but we have no proof of it — and it never does here to set such a story rolling unless you can support it by evidence. Loose talk does little good to the talker in England.

My own impression is that it is always best for those who do agree as to the best ends & means for the Am. A. S. to coöperate heartily & to bring their influence amongst those who are around them & agree with the measures likely to attract them — and the men they approve. With bigots it is impossible to coöperate to any purpose. We learned that Julia's circulars filled with glorification of Douglass and charges against Garrison &c. were sent to all the ladies committees here except to Mrs Edmondson (Miss Wigham's sister) and to any [illegible] who work heartily for the ~~Edinburgh~~ Am. A. Soc.

P. Pillsbury has been busy in and near Nottingham & Derby, breaking new ground. Many of his attendants are Quakers — but I feel sure that when they find out about the Rutland Convention Resolutions they will drop him as we say in Ireland, "like a hot potato." Mrs Turner of Nottingham an a certain intimate friend of Miss Martineau's has been extremely cordial to him — but she will not be frightened away by the same bugaboo that terrifies the Quakers. I had a letter a few days ago from the proprietor of a very influential Manchester paper whom I know. He said he had had a very sharp note from P. P. objecting

to something P. P. did not consider quite correct
anti Slavery in his paper - & complaining that a
letter of introduction from [illegible] which he had left at
his office had never been noticed. He said he
never got the letter, should not know P. P. if he saw
him. The truth is the man is uncommonly busy
& it was foolish to find fault with him for ~~to~~ having
something in his paper that he probably never
saw & would not understand the merits of. As
to the letter he receives thousands more than he
can notice or answer. P. P. expects every
one to be a good Garrison abolitionist & does not
know how to make proper allowance for people
circumstanced or constituted differently from
himself. Backwoodsmen are I think always
Backwoodsmen both in their strength, their pre-
judices & their weaknesses.

Will you send me T. Parker's defence - Also,
Miss Child's new book in 3 vols on Religious Sects
I don't know its proper name, but you doubtless do.
It costs 28/ in London & I suppose can be had
very much cheaper in Boston. Would I be any
thing the better by being represented as of the
trade? A school master a friend of mine
says that American Slate pencils are softer,
sharper in outline & much nicer & better than
ours. He would like to get a gross that is
12 dozen which I suppose would cost a mere
trifle - perhaps not half a dollar - If dearer
half the quantity would do.

I have heard nothing very new from Miss
Estlin lately - though I am rarely a week
without hearing. I think I also mentioned
another portrait of T. Parker when I wrote last. It
is for my daughter who wants it particularly for
some purpose of her own.

Kind regards and warmest good-wishes
to the whole Household of Faith, as E. Q. says

Ever yours truly
Richd D Webb

The Reports & pamphlets have come to hand & have been duly forwarded.

ms. B.1.6 v.6, p.15